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FROM: BONN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1871, FEBRUARY 26, 7 PM

SENT DEPARTMENT 1871; REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 448, PARIS 630.

PARIS FOR USCINCEUR THURSTON AND WEST.

REFERENCE PARIS TELS 3075 AND 3076 TO DEPARTMENT.

IT SEEMS TO ME THERE IS A FUNDAMENTAL MISCONCEPTION, IN THE LIGHT OF THESE TWO TELEGRAMS, AS TO THE GRAVE ISSUES INVOLVED. AS REGARDS BERLIN, EVERYTHING CONNECTED WITH THE HANDLING OF THE PROBLEM IS BOUND TO HAVE A STRONG POLITICAL ASPECT. I AM PERSONALLY SYMPATHETIC WITH WHAT I KNOW OF MILITARY PLANNING AT PRESENT CONCERNING RUNNING OF CONVOYS, ETC., IN CONNECTION OUR ACCESS TO BERLIN; WITH EXCEPTION THAT, IN MY JUDGMENT, PROJECTED OPERATION OF CLOSED VEHICLES IS UNLIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND, EVEN IF SUCCESSFUL, MEANINGLESS IN REGARD TO AN AFFAIR WHERE THE ULTIMATE ISSUE IS A NEW WORLD WAR OR INDEFINITE CONTINUANCE OF THE COLD WAR.

ALL DECISIONS IN THIS REGARD, AND IN EVERY ASPECT OF PLANNING IN CONNECTION WITH BERLIN PROBLEM, MUST DEPEND ON POLICY CONCERTED AND COORDINATED IN LAST ANALYSIS IN WASHINGTON WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF OUR BRITISH AND FRENCH ALLIES, AND FULL INFORMATION CONVEYED TO FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

I AM FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE NECESSARY CONVENTIONS OF THE MILITARY CHAIN OF COMMAND, AND THEREFORE APPRECIATE THE POSSIBLE ADVANTAGE OF CENTERING IN PARIS THE STRICTLY MILITARY PLANNING SUCH AS THAT ENVISAGED IN PARA 1(A) OF DEPT'S G-397 AND NUMBERED PARA 1 OF DEPTEL 1865. HOWEVER, SINCE SUCH PLANNING WAS TO BE TRIPARTITE AND SINCE DEPT'S MEMORANDUM TO BRITISH AND FRENCH PROPOSE

~~SECRET~~
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-2- 1871, FEBRUARY 26, 7 PM FROM BONN

IT BE UNDERTAKEN BY "MILITARY HEADQUARTERS OF THREE POWERS IN GERMANY", BRITISH AND FRENCH MUST AGREE IF LOCALE IS TO BE SHIFTED TO PARIS.

AS REGARDS OTHER ASPECTS OF PLANNING (E.G., NUMBERED PARA 2 DEPTEL 1865) ALL OF WHICH INVOLVE POLITICAL AS WELL AS MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS, I AGREE WITH PARIS REFTELS TO EXTENT THAT THERE SHOULD BE ONE CENTER OF COORDINATION. IT SEEMS TO ME THE LOGICAL PLACE FOR THIS WOULD BE GERMANY WHERE VARIOUS EXPERTS, BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY, OF THREE NATIONAL ELEMENTS ARE READILY AVAILABLE AND WHERE WE HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. I DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE SUGGESTION PRACTICABLE TO COORDINATE WHATEVER PART THIS EMBASSY MIGHT BE SUPPOSED TO PLAY IN THE FORMULATION OF PLANS REGARDING ACCESS TO BERLIN AND RELATED MATTERS, BY ASSIGNMENT OF POLITICAL LIAISON OFFICER TO TRIPARTITE GROUP PARIS.

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